ascertained only by a proper test audit. It is immaterial whether it is done by an officer of the State or an outsider. It will be enough if the Comptroller does it (*no, no*). Then an outsider may be appointed. The resolution does not stand in the way.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—They may be competent to discharge the work satisfactorily.

President.—In the last year's resolution we made a reference to bring in an outside officer—not outside man.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—What is the objection on the part of the Government to have the Department properly examined? The Department states 'we are alright'. We say 'you are not'. It is only a matter of statement. So there must be somebody from outside to decide this question, whether our contention is right or whether your contention is right. Defalcations have taken place, and you were not able to charge the man responsible for that, and then you come forward and tell us 'We are following the up-to-date method and we are up-to-date in matters of business and other things'.

President.—Now, the resolution before the House is "*That this Council recommends that arrangements be made for the test audit of the accounts of the State.*"

(*The resolution was put and agreed to, the officials only voting against.*)

Mr. A. B. Salem.—We want a poll, Sir.

President.—Only the officials are against.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Then that may be noted.

(*The House rose for lunch at 2-7 p. m. and met again at 3 p. m. with the Deputy President in the Chair.*)

5. Special Officer for Irrigation.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Sir, I will, with your permission, slightly alter the resolution in view of the consultation which I had with some of the Members of this Council and the new resolution will now run like this :—

"*This Council recommends to the Government to appoint a Special Officer to be in charge of Irrigation.*

Deputy President.—The Member is allowed to make the change.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—What about your proposal for the Department?

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I don't press at present to create a new Department for that. Sir, in moving the resolution it is not necessary to emphasise the importance of irrigation and also agriculture. It is an admitted fact that India is an agricultural country and our State is pre-eminently an agricultural State. To quote from an article written by Mr. R. A. Gayatrinatha Ayyar,

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Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Cochin State :—"The two problems that must engage our attention in framing a scheme of rural reconstruction are (1) how to increase the yield and make agriculture remunerative, and (2) how to enable the farmer to get the full value of his produce. Agriculture can be made to pay in two ways:—(a) by increasing the area under cultivation and (b) by the intensive cultivation of existing lands. The first can be done by (1) improving the existing source of irrigation and the Government helping to construct new ones wherever possible and (2) by bringing more cultivable wastes and disafforested areas under cultivation. The intensive system of cultivation is made by adopting a more scientific method. This is a field to be explored by the Agricultural Department. Thus by extending the areas under cultivation and by adherence to an extensive or rather scientific system of cultivation of existing lands there can be no doubt that the outturn per acre can be increased to a considerable extent. The means by which the agriculturist can realise the full value of his produce will be reserved to the last, when the other activities of "Co-operation" in this direction are made mention of."

This contains a very important suggestion that irrigation should be developed for increasing the produce which we get from lands. To improve irrigation we have to spend money. The agriculturists are giving a large part of the income of the State. Let me now quote what the Hon'ble Mr. Hamilton once said :—

"India is pre-eminently an agricultural country. 75 per cent of its population, directly or indirectly, depend on agriculture. Its welfare is inseparably bound up with its agricultural prosperity. Agriculture is its chief, or I may say, it has been gradually becoming its sole industry. In these circumstances, agriculture must have the first place in the administration of the country. The ryot pays the land revenue and the bulk of the salt-tax; the ryot's labour yields the opium revenue; the ryot pays the best part of the excise revenue income and all other branches of revenue are more or less dependent on his labours. The ryot fills the Railway waggons, roads and steamers. The ryot grows the jute and cotton and wears the manufactured cloth. While the Empire rests as much on the ryot as it does on the sword, the claims of agriculture must have the first place."

In view of this remark it is unnecessary to dwell upon the importance of agriculture and irrigation. As far as our State is concerned, now there is no definite policy as far as the allotment for irrigation is concerned. There is no officer solely in harg e of this work. If we go through the budget allotments,

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we find some allotments for irrigation, under the Revenue Department and some under the Village Panchayats and some under the W. D. This shows that this question has not received sufficient attention from the Government. In the last Council a resolution for appointing a committee to consider the development of irrigation was passed and in the course of the discussion the Chief Engineer remarked as follows:—

"I have great pleasure in supporting the sentiments expressed in it."

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Is that my speech, Sir?

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Yes. Volume III, Part II.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I do endorse that.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—In view of these remarks which have fallen from the Chief Engineer it is unnecessary to point out the necessity of appointing an Irrigation Officer. It is absolutely necessary if agriculture is to be improved. With these few remarks I commend the resolution to the acceptance of this House.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—I second it, Sir.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—Mr. President, Sir, I should like to support this resolution in a few words. In doing so, I may note at the very outset that the subject of irrigation is very intimately connected with the well-being of the people of a State like Cochin, whose main occupation is agriculture. But unfortunately in an important matter like this, the Government do not seem to have in view any definite and settled policy. While it has invested about Rs. 5 lakhs in the Potteries, it is a dead loss, still larger amounts in bad and uncertain loans to concerns like the Cochin Tanneries and the Sitaram Spinning and weaving Mills, is it not strange that the Government have not been spending any substantial amount on irrigation on which depends the prosperity of a large section of the population of this land? Of course, a few thousand rupees are spent annually in the repair and maintenance of minor irrigation works; and a lakh of rupees is budgetted this year to make a start in the direction of carrying out a major irrigation project. But the very fact that the Government could not decide upon any particular project while making a lump allotment of this lakh of rupees only emphasises the fact that the Government have been so far groping in the dark as regards the subject of irrigation and betrays on their part a lamentable lack of policy and foresight. If we only read the Administration Reports of the past decade or two; we shall be disappointed to find that large sums of money were spent upon investigation of schemes; but

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after investigating those projects were either postponed or abandoned. It will be a misfortune, if, notwithstanding the labour and money spent on the investigation of schemes, we are not in a position to carry them out and thereby hasten the agricultural prosperity which the ryots are looking forward to.

In my opinion one important factor which has hitherto retarded irrigation developments in the State is the absence of an Irrigation Department. under the guidance of an Engineering Department. I understand that the Government have now on hand some very urgent and important schemes like the Manali and Chalakkudi diversion schemes and the Thannikkudam scheme which have all been revised and brought up-to date and their technical side examined, and the carrying out of these and other irrigation projects will carry the Government a number of years ahead, and will involve an expenditure of several lakhs of rupees. Hence the need for the early organisation of an Irrigation Department which in course of time may become a branch of the Development Department the establishment of which the Special Finance Committee has recommended in its report. When this Department is organised, the Government will be well advised to obtain the service of Mr. John Kuriyan as Special Irrigation Officer, who has ample experience and technical skill. In Madras there is a separate irrigation branch under engineering experts. As a result of this reorganisation, the Madras Government have made rapid strides in this direction as the Metur and other projects will amply bear out. We, in Cochin, too can progress in irrigation works provided we also establish an Irrigation Department and place it under expert guidance.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon —It has become common in this Council to speak of improvements in irrigation on the hypothesis that the Government are at present bestowing insufficient attention to it. Nothing can be farther from the truth than this hypothesis. The profession and practice of Engineering as distinguished from that of Law or Commerce has ever remained a silent one. We have so much to do that we did not find time to talk. In some other famous professions, it is the reverse. Man, as a rule, is averse to put strain on his brain, but prefers to be carried away by understandable phrases, and more is his delight, if he hears something disparaging about somebody he knows.

The man in the street does not wish or has no time to sit quiet and examine the statements he has read in the newspapers or heard from his friends about important matters and generally takes them at their face value. And we, like our colleagues

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elsewhere, have not had the opportunity or time to advertise ourselves and about the nature and the quality of our work. In many cases, however, we are even considered to be real malefactors to a community. For example, I do not think that the Ernakulam Town at the present moment can find many good points in the Public Works Department. They fail to realise that our Engineers are working for them day and night, managing costly and delicate machinery with a regularity and precision which is worthy of all praise and admiration. They know of no holidays, nor can they leave their posts. But the people remark these silent men only if, by a rare accident, there be some shortage of water in Ernakulam for a few hours. And at those times, believe me, Sir, we are not looking for compliments. We are again heard of, if we make any mistakes in judgments, and as a consequence many of our structures fail. No matter what our usual performances were, yet,if a small and comparatively insignificant work fails or needs rectification, explanations are called for, questions asked, and such rare and small faults, which only occur once in many years, are so much brought to the lime-light that our other good performances look like mere specks. On the other hand, if a law suit fails in a court the vakil gets his fees and the matter is regarded as a matter of course. Or if a patient dies when under the care of a doctor, no enquiry is made as to whether there was any lack of judgment in treatment or whether there was any want of proper care in the details of an operation. The infallibility of the lawyer and the doctor is taken as granted while the Engineer's mistakes are never tolerated. Thus it can be seen how unfair our position is generally.

Regarding the general belief that our Government is not bestowing sufficient attention to irrigation, let me, now at least, give you some facts. Figures for the last ten years will show our efforts in this direction —

In	1093	we spent Rs.	48,000	on irrigation.
	1094		77,000	
	1095		72,000	
	1096		73,000	
	1097		63,000	
	1098		57,000	
	1099		56,000	
	1100		1,06,891	
	1101		84,987	
	1102		1,47,759	

You will find therefrom that we have been executing irrigation works in the State for the past three years on greatly increased scale. And during 1102 we have spent Rs. 1,47,759,

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an amount which is not surpassed in any year for irrigation works in the annals of the Cochin Public Works Department.

We have now completed one of the biggest and most difficult of works, the Cochin Engineers were ever called to do. I refer to the Enamakkal Dam works which were constructed on treacherous soil, and costing about Rs. 1,10,000. This serves the drainage of 20,000 acres of *Kole* lands, and due to its construction the flood level of the Trichur lake has considerably diminished. It has, therefore, become possible to bring increased lands in the *Kole* area under *Kuttaden* cultivation, thereby helping the farmers to save thousands of rupees in cultivation. All these are not known to the general public, because we do not advertise. We know them and the *Kole* cultivators know them. But people, like the mover, situated in Kunnamkulam or other parts, do not know of our efforts. And they think that the Government are not doing anything in the matter of irrigation.

Again I remember to have read in the Proceedings of the last Budget Session that the opinion of a Member was that the Public Works Department is a fairly well nourished one, but it has only one defect. And that is, it does not do any good to the public. He based his argument on the fact that we have not constructed a small road somewhere. Look at the budget and see our road programme of this year. The Mala-Adoor road and several other roads in the Mukundapuram Taluk, the Nelliampathi Ghat road, the road in Pazhayannur are all seen scheduled. To make such a serious charge on account of the fact that we have not constructed a small and comparatively unimportant road does not seem fair to your hardworking Engineers. It may be our fault, for we do not advertise and people do not know what we are doing. But I request you to go thoroughly into the works which we do and then form your conclusions.

Now let me give you an idea of what our future policy is in regard to irrigation. I tried hard during the first two years I was here, *i. e.*, 1100 and 1101, to develop irrigation in the State with the help of the staff in the permanent establishment. You can have no idea of the great trouble I had to get work done. Unfortunately for me, the time of my arrival was also the time at which the three divisions of Assistant Engineers were reduced to two. I then found out that my existing staff had so much routine work to do that they could not pay adequate attention to new projects. Shortly afterwards, I got sanction for the appointment of a Special Assistant Engineer and a corps of Surveyors for investigation purposes alone. They were working for the last 1½ years. They have investigated the most pressing

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of needs for the State. Every one is aware of the damage due to floods to lands fringing the Muriyad Lake. Their investigations are completed on this question and I hope to send in my estimates within two or three weeks. These works could be started this year.

Again they have completed the project for the Amballur Protective Works. Complete final estimates were submitted by me a short while ago to the Travancore Government for their formal approval.

They have also completed the final surveys of the Thannikkudam Project which, if it materialises, will prove to be a great boon to the Trichur Taluk and possibly to Talappalli also.

They have done a good deal of work on the original Chalakkudi Irrigation Scheme. This requires the co-operation of the Travancore State, and if there be any delay in the execution of this important work, the blame will not lie at the doors of the Public Works Department.

Within the short space of one year, we have completed the investigation and drawn up complete estimates for works intended to relieve two of the most important and ancient of grievances of the people. Do you not agree with me in thinking that we have done good work?

Shortly we shall be taking up the investigation of the Pothundy Reservoir Scheme in Nemmara, and we hope to finish it within a comparatively short time.

The difficulty hitherto has been the dearth of good schemes properly investigated which are ready for execution. It was not a question of unwillingness to spend money. We have discovered this truth and have made adequate arrangements to remedy the defects.

Those of you who form your opinion of working of our Department from the *Administration Reports* alone will have no correct idea of what we do and, therefore, I am not surprised that there are murmurings here and there regarding the attention bestowed by the Government on the important question of irrigation in the State.

I shall now tell you from my experience how a Special Irrigation Officer burdened with the management of the existing Irrigation Systems will not prove as efficient as one would desire. The routine work will occupy most of the time of his assistants and the investigation of new schemes will suffer greatly unless there is a Special Investigation Division. These matters were fully dealt with in the consideration of the reorganisation of the Department by the Special Finance Committee and it was not found necessary to have a Special and independent Irrigation Department as they have in the Madras Public

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Works Department. There is not scope enough here, nor is it necessary to have two separate Engineering Departments.

After the investigation of big schemes, it is, however, our intention to get them scrutinised by real first rate experts having long experience in irrigation works so that all of us may be sure that we are spending money as wisely as possible.

While, therefore, in opposing this resolution, I wish to make it clear that I am decidedly not for retarding development in irrigation, but I only say that our present arrangements in having a separate investigation division is amply sufficient to cope with this work, and that judging from the good work done by our Department under the altered conditions, no change in the organisation is called for.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Sir, the Chittur Taluk is always the centre of irrigation. Is there a single subordinate of yours there who can boast himself that he is an expert in irrigation?

Deputy President.—You can see by the result.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Is there a single man? No. We feel it. We do not get water.

Deputy President.—They have begun only investigation of the work.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—We shall be having three divisions and we shall be having one for that purpose alone.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Is there a single man there who knows the work?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—There is the Assistant Engineer there.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Has he any special training or knowledge of irrigation?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—In fact I may tell you one thing. Maintenance works do not require such special training once the rules have been laid down. Only experience is necessary then, and our Assistant Engineers are sufficiently experienced in the work.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Had they any special training?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—They had a special training.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—Their course of training in the Engineering College includes also training in irrigation.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Irrigation and hydrology form a portion of their studies.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Had they any practical work outside our State?

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Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Engineers in England study irrigation in India. India is the best place for the study of irrigation, since we have got an irrigation system here.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—They are generally placed under experts in India. Under which expert were our officers placed? Did our Government give any expert training to our Assistant Engineers?

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Sir, before concluding the discussion, I want to say one or two words in reply to the complaint so generally expressed by the Chief Engineer in not recognising the value and the worth of the work contributed to the State by his Department. He says that his is a silent profession, and at least in that matter I can sympathise with him as I too belong to a silent profession. (*Laughter.*) I shall be the last person to say that Government have not devoted some attention to the Irrigation Department as is evidenced by the paltry sum that has been spent in this Department. The Government has allotted this year in the budget another 50,000 rupees, I believe, for rural areas in the matter of water works, but I ask this Council in all earnestness,——

Deputy President.—That is not the object.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—That is a special boon.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—We have provided a lakh of rupees in the budget.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I beg your pardon. We entirely appreciate the amount of this allotment provided for this Department. The Department does its very level best. We do not praise the Department because we think it is not good manners to praise a person within his own hearing, and at the same time we think it is justifiable to criticise and point out the defects, omissions and comissions of that Department. It should be considered only in that light, and it should not be thought that we have a very short memory and we have forgotten all the beneficent works done by the Department.

A series of figures have been quoted by the Chief Engineer—a very remarkable study—48,000 was the allotment for one year and then for the last three preceding years it comes to a lakh and odd, a lakh and 40 thousand and then a lakh and 44 thousand. That corresponds to the period of the existence of this Council, and that shows the hostile criticisms levelled against the Government have borne fruit and that the Government are gradually recognising, in spite of themselves, that something must be done at least to hush up this clamour. I won't say the Government have done all that they can possibly do, and I cannot understand that, in a matter like this, where

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the Government's interests are identical with the interests of the people even from the revenue point of view, the Government could not find more money to devote to irrigation. It should also be understood that, when we level criticisms, they are not against any particular individual sitting there so far as policy is concerned. Surely for individual action, in the matter of promotion and appointment, when the Head of a Department goes out of his way, the adverse criticism is aimed against him. But when we discuss the policy of Government or the policy of the Department, we are directing our criticisms against the Government, whatever that term means. Therefore, that Department need not consider that we are very hostile, and that we have forgotten all the good things that have been done. All our criticism is against the Government for not having done their duty properly in the matter of irrigation. I do not think that any impartial judge will say that a State which has got an income of nearly 70 lakhs of rupees devoting a paltry sum of 30 or 40 thousand per year can claim that it has done its duty by this amount. Year in and year out we have been complaining and complaining bitterly here. Yet you somehow or other find out some pretext, some excuse to get out of your difficult position by holding out a promise, which you have no intention to carry out, and later on you bring forward a series of excuses to get yourself out of the difficulties that you have created by your own promises. This sort of thing is not very creditable either to the Government or to the Department concerned.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Are you quite correct in making this statement?

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Have I ever made an incorrect statement in this House?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Many.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Will you tell me one? Come on if you have got the boldness. Get up and say.

Deputy President.—You go on with what you have to say on the resolution.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—What we want is this. We want a comprehensive survey of the scope of irrigation in the State, what great works could be undertaken, and if money is not forthcoming, money could be raised by a sinking fund or some other means. We are not going to be satisfied with patch works of doing a little work there, digging a tank here, etc. That is not the work that we want you to do. Take a lesson from the Mysore Government and see how that Government has made use of the natural forces, how they have saddled the natural forces to carry on their work and utilised them for Public Works. That is the lesson you ought to study. That is called "Gov-

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ernment"; that is called "administration". The Government must have some imagination and you gentlemen are lacking, entirely lacking in it. (*Laughter.*)

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Unparliamentary expressions should not be allowed.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I never said any unparliamentary word. If I have done so, the President may call me to withdraw and I will withdraw.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—How do you say that we are wanting in imagination? You can find 'imagination' expressed in the paragraphs of the Special Finance Committee report.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I do not deny that. You have got a water-fall here. I understand the fall is from about 500 ft; whereas the Cauvery water-fall is less than that. Now we want to know whether we would be in a position to utilise these natural resources of the State for our benefit. That must be investigated and that is what you should do. We also want to know whether by doing some works at the Chalakkudi river you can divert a good portion of the water for cultivation purposes and not to come and tell us that we are preparing a canal in Chittur that we have dug this tank and done this and that. In order to do this necessary work, there must be another officer. If the Chief Engineer thinks that he cannot do the work, in that case he must be relieved of his great duties and his assistant or somebody else must be asked to do those duties. But I am positively certain (without making any insult to the present staff) that the present gentleman and staff are not competent to carry on such huge schemes, schemes which involve lakhs of rupees which require great experience and knowledge.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Which is that scheme?

Dr. A. R. Menon.—There are various schemes. You can use the Chalakkudi river by putting up a dam,—

Deputy President.—Will these officers be not able to do it?

Dr. A. R. Menon.—What I said was, if the Chief Engineer thinks he can do those things with the present staff, there is no need for bringing in another man. In that case, he must be relieved of his present duties to some extent, and another man may be appointed to look after them. Now the Chief Engineer has got so many burdens that he could not devote his time properly to schemes of this kind. Either the Chief Engineer must be asked to look after these works after relieving him of his present duties to some extent, or somebody else with the requisite qualifications should be appointed.

Deputy President.—But will not the Special Assistant be able to do the work?

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Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Yes; and he has got the necessary qualifications.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Very well, if he thinks he can do the work without an additional hand, well and good. Considering the nature of the work involved, we honestly think that the Head of the Department would not be able to carry on this work. That was our view and that is our view still. But if he thinks he himself can do it, all right. The man that is now deputed is studying engineering after coming here, just as surgeons in the Madras General Hospital study operations for 20 years. But this is not a fit operation for us. We want some body who knows the work and who can investigate the scope of work here.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—How can you know whether a person is fit or not beforehand, unless he puts his hand to the work and does it?

Dr. A. R. Menon.—We are not going to waste our money for teaching that fellow. We want the work to be done as soon as possible. We think that the Department cannot cope with the actual work at the present time, and, therefore, it will be better if a separate officer be appointed for the purpose.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—In British does the D. P. W. Engineer carry out the irrigation works also?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—There are two Engineers, one for roads and buildings, another for irrigation.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—Now there is a third for the Mettur Project.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Compared with the extent of Mysore and Madras, there is no scope here in Cochin for so many hands. The development of Hydrolysis in Mysore was the direct result of their finding gold mines in Kolar which proved a source of an additional earning. The income was so great that they started their hydrolytic works. Conditions are not similar here, and you cannot say, since the Mysore Government have done that, we also ought to have done it much earlier.

Deputy President.—He says if it is possible it should be investigated. That is all.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I will give you this information. The rate current is 4 pies per unit in Kolar whereas it is 6 pies per unit at Bangalore. If such a thing is made possible here, you can supply to all industries and the only trouble is you may not be able to supply the demand. There is no question of want of demand.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—That is not irrigation.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I was connecting one with the other. You can put up a dam and during summer, when there is not sufficient water, you can divert it.

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Mr. C. Barton Wright.—Could not a temporary Engineer be engaged to initiate this work? I do not think it is possible for our Engineer to do both the works.

Deputy President.— He says he can.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—After he has initiated and organised and got the whole thing in order, then of course it is nothing to carry it on. It will be better to engage a temporary man.

Deputy President.— But the Engineer says that it is not necessary.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—On a point of information. Does the present Engineer believe that the present officer in charge of irrigation has got the initiative and will be able to tackle this question?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—There is a Special Officer. He will be able to do it. We have got a Special Investigating Department. I have absolutely no doubt as to the efficiency of our present officers.

മിസ്റ്റർ ഔസേപ്പ് പ.. കുണ്ടുകുളം.—ഞാൻ ഈ റസല്യൂഷനെ പിന്താങ്ങുന്നു. രണ്ടു കാരണങ്ങളാണു്. ഒന്നാമതു്, കഴിഞ്ഞ ബഡ്ജറ്റ് സമ്മേളനത്തിൽ ഇറിഗേഷൻ പണികൾക്കായുള്ള പണം അനുവദിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള അപേക്ഷകൾ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു് ഭാഗത്തുനിന്നും കൊണ്ടുവന്നപ്പോൾ ഇറിഗേഷൻ വകക്കു് അനുവദിക്കുന്നപനം ഇന്ന ഇന്ന കാര്യങ്ങൾക്കായിട്ടാണു് ഉപയോഗിക്കാൻ പോകുന്നതെന്നു് ഈ സഭയെ ധരിപ്പിച്ചതിനുശേഷമെ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു് പണം ചിലവാക്കുകയുള്ളു എന്നു് വാഗ്ദാനം ചെയ്തിരുന്നു. അങ്ങിനെ ഒരു പ്പോട്ടും ഇതുവരെ ഇവിടെ കിട്ടിയിട്ടില്ല. അതിനുള്ള കാരണവും പറഞ്ഞിട്ടില്ല.

ഡെപ്യൂട്ടി പ്രസിഡെണ്ടു്.—സ്റ്റോറു്മെണ്ടു് തയ്യാറാക്കി അയയ്ക്കാമെന്നാണു് പറഞ്ഞിരുന്നതു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ വ.. കെ. അരവിന്ദാക്ഷമേനോൻ.—സ്റ്റോറു്മെണ്ടിൽ ഒന്നു് ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിലേയ്ക്കു അയച്ചു കഴിഞ്ഞു.

മിസ്റ്റർ ഔസേപ്പ പ.. കുണ്ടുകുളം.—രണ്ടാമതു് കോൾകൃഷിക്കായി ചിലവാക്കുന്ന പണം വളരെ ദോഷത്തെ ചെയ്യുന്നുണ്ടെന്നുള്ളതാണു്. ഇറിഗേഷൻകാർ ഒന്നാമതായി ഇപ്പോൾ ചെയ്ത ഒരു പ്രവൃത്തി ഏനാമായ്ക്കൽ ബണ്ടു് താഴ്ത്തുക എന്നതാകുന്നു. സ്വതേതന്നെ യാതൊരു പശിമയും ഇല്ലാതിരുന്ന മുള്ളർക്കായൽ പ്രദേശം ബണ്ടു് താഴ്ത്തിയതിനുശേഷം ഒഴുക്കിൽപെട്ട വല്ലപശിമയും ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നുവെങ്കിൽ അതുംകൂടെ തീരേ നശിച്ചു് ഭൂമി ഒട്ടും ഫലമില്ലാത്തതായിവരുന്നു.

മിസ്റ്റർ വ.. കെ. അരവിന്ദാക്ഷമേനോൻ.—ബണ്ടു് താഴ്ത്തിയിട്ടില്ല. വീതികൂട്ടുകയേ ഉണ്ടായുള്ളു. കടവു രണ്ടാക്കിയിട്ടുണ്ടു്.

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മിസ്റ്റർ ഔസേപ്പ പി. കുണ്ടുകുളം.—ഈ ബണ്ടുകാരണം വഷ്കാലത്തു് നിലങ്ങളിൽ വെള്ളംകടന്നു നില്ക്കുന്നതിനു സാധിക്കാത്തതിനാൽ അതിലെ പശിമ എല്ലാം ഒലിച്ചുപോകുന്നു. പശിമവന്നു ചേരാൻ വേറെ ഒരു മാർഗ്ഗംഒന്നും ഇല്ല. അതിനാൽ കോൾകൃഷിക്കുമാത്രമല്ല മുണ്ടകൻ കൃഷിക്കും ദോഷം ഉണ്ടാകുന്നുണ്ടു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. അരവിന്ദാക്ഷമേനോൻ.—ഏനാമായ്ക്കൽ ബണ്ടു് ദോഷമാണെന്നാണൊ മെംബർ പറയുന്നതു?

മിസ്റ്റർ ഔസേപ്പ പി. കുണ്ടുകുളം.—അതെ; വലുതായ ദോഷവും ഉണ്ടാകുന്നുണ്ടു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. അരവിന്ദാക്ഷമേനോൻ.—എന്നാൽ അതു് വളരെ ഗുണകരമാണെന്നു് പലരും അഭിപ്രായപ്പെടുന്നുണ്ടു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ ഔസേപ്പ പി. കുണ്ടുകുളം.—വലിയ പടവുകാരാർ എടുത്തു് വെള്ളം വറ്റിക്കുന്ന വലിയ വലിയ ആളുകളാണു് അതു ഗുണകരമാണെന്നു പറയുന്നവർ. ചീഫ് എഞ്ചിനീയർ വലിയവരായ അവരുടെ അഭിപ്രായമെ കേട്ടിട്ടുള്ളായിരിക്കാം. സ്വന്തമായി കൃഷിചെയ്യുന്ന പാവങ്ങളുടെ സങ്കടം അദ്ദേഹത്തിനു് കിട്ടിയിട്ടില്ല. അവക്കാണു് ഈ ബണ്ടു് ദോഷത്തെ ചെയ്യുന്നതു്. അവർ ദരിദ്രന്മാരാണു്. കുറെ കൃഷിസ്ഥലമെ ഉള്ളു. ഇപ്പോൾ അവക്കു് കോൾകൃഷി ഗുണകരമല്ലെന്നു് അനുഭവപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്നതിനാൽ കൂട്ടാടൻ കൃഷിയാണു് അവർ തുടങ്ങിയിരിക്കുന്നതു. ഇപ്പോൾ ഈ കൃഷിയും ഗുണപ്രദം അല്ലഎന്നു വന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇപ്പോൾ രണ്ടായിരം പറക്കു ദിക്കിനു് വിതച്ചിരുന്ന വിത്തുകളെല്ലാം പടിഞ്ഞാറെക്കായലിൽ കൊണ്ടുപോയി തള്ളിയിരിക്കുന്നു. അതിനു് കാരണം എലികളാണെന്നും ഞണ്ടുകളാണെന്നും പറയുന്നുണ്ടു്. വേനല്ക്കാലത്തു് ഉണക്കു ബാധിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. ഇതു് ചില്ലറക്കായ്മയല്ല. ഇരുപതിനായിരം ഏക്കർ ഭൂമി കൃഷിചെയ്തു കൊച്ചി സംസ്ഥാനത്തെ ജനങ്ങളെ തീറ്റിപ്പോറ്റുവാൻ ഉപകരിക്കേണ്ട ഒരു കായ്മാണു്. അതുകൊണ്ടാണു് ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ തന്നെ മുഴുവൻ ശ്രദ്ധയും പതിക്കത്തക്കവണ്ണം ഒരു പ്രത്യേക ആഫീസർ വേണമെന്നു വാദിക്കുന്നതു്.

Deputy President.—Does the mover want to exercise the right of reply?

Dr. A. G. Menon.—No, Sir.

(*The following amendment to the resolution was considered withdrawn since it was not pressed:*—

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—'*Omit* '*an*' *and substitute* '*a temporary.*'')

Question put:—"*That this Council recommends to the Government to appoint a Special Officer to be in charge of Irrigation*".

Question put and agreed to, Government opposing it.

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